

U.S. Appl. No. 09/627,725
Reply to Office Action dated March 14, 2006

PATENT
450100-02622

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-40 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 17, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2005/0028208 to Ellis, et al.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...preference information storing means for storing preference information indicating preferences of each of one or more users,

wherein the preference information comprises information linking: each of the one or more users; a corresponding personal remote terminal device; and program information preferred by each of the users...” (emphasis added)

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As understood by Applicant, U.S. Publication No. 2005/0028208 to Ellis, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ellis") relates to an interactive program guide with remote access provided. Ellis discloses a remote access device that connects to the interactive program guide and can communicate with the guide.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Ellis that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Specifically, Applicants submit that Ellis fails to teach or suggest preference information storing means for storing preference information indicating preferences of each of one or more users, wherein the preference information comprises information linking: each of the one or more users; a corresponding personal remote terminal device; and program information preferred by each of the users, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants note that, although, Ellis does teach a plurality of remote access devices may access the interactive guide, Ellis does not teach or suggest that information is stored that links a specific remote access device to a specific user and that specific user's preferences.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are also patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

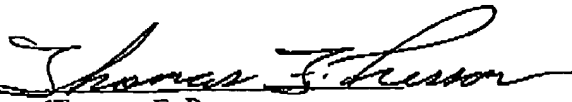
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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